

ever, in the assurance that the least intelligent student of the Word will not be at a loss to know what is truth amid it all, and to discern the spirit which is at work in it. As to

## 5. THE RESURRECTION.

I must agree with Mr. L. that "there is not a hint of any difference in time between the resurrection of Old and New Testament saints," nor did I ever hear that any thought so.

The proofs of the First Resurrection of the saints are not only to be found in Rev. xx., 4-6 as he seems to suppose. To quote against it that Paul believed (what we all believe) that "there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust," is childish. The quotation of Jno v. 28, 29 is more rational; but there also it is the general statement, and the "hour" may, as we see from verse 25, embrace a long lapse of time. Nothing can be really argued from such expressions as "day" or "hour," as they are used in all languages in a very wide sense. "The last day" is an instance, which is that which succeeds the present, or man's day, without particularizing exactly when. Scripture does not fail to supply us with the means of interpreting aright all such expressions, in doing which we must explain the indefinite by the definite, and not reverse the rule as Mr. Laing does.

Scripture is precise, that the "order" of resurrection is "Christ the first fruits, afterward *they that are Christ's* at His coming (1 Cor. xv. 23); not the Church only, as Mr. L. asserts is taught, I know not by whom; and *not*, as he asserts for himself, the wicked dead as well. If this were so, there would be no meaning in the apostle's words. Look at the chapter, reader, and see how plain it is that it is a resurrection only of saints he has in mind. For when he says, "it is raised in incorruption," "it is raised in glory," &c., it is evident that this could not apply to the wicked at all; and we have already seen by comparing verse 54 with Isa. xxv. 8, that this takes place at the time when the veil is removed from the nations and the offence of God's people taken from the earth.